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PELLETT GARDENS

Atlantic, Iowa

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Seeds of Honey Plants

Offered by

PELLETT GARDENS

Atlantic, Iowa

Many of the plants included in this our 1942 list are equally valuable for the gardener and the bee-keeper. Few of them are offered by the regular seed trade. A number of new items are added this season.

ANISE-HYSSOP or FRAGRANT GIANT HYSSOP (*Agastache anethiodora*)

Anise-hyssop is a native plant which was much used by the Indian. From it was made a beverage for use as we use tea. It was also used for flavoring other foods and from it was extracted a remedy for colds. It is strange that this plant should have been completely overlooked by our herb gardeners. It is very fragrant and has a long flowering period from June until October. The plant is perennial and worthy of a place in any ornamental garden as well as herb garden. As a bee plant it ranks very high. Pioneer settlers reported fine crops of honey from it. Seed 15c per packet, one-fourth oz. for \$1.00. Plants 25c each or six for \$1.00. Postpaid.

Yellow spider flower or GOLDEN CLEOME (*Cleome lutea*)

Golden cleome is a native of the southwest, which has too long been overlooked as an ornamental. An annual of easy culture, it grows to a height of six or seven feet and blooms from July until frost with a constantly increasing number of flower clusters. It must have plenty of room. Plants should not be nearer than three or four feet apart. One of the finest of honey plants, attractive to many kinds of insects. 15c per packet, 75c per ounce. Postpaid.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BEE PLANT (*Cleome serrulata*)

The Rocky Mountain Bee Plant is the source of surplus honey in some Colorado localities and is found in the wild state as far east as Iowa. The flowers are pink or purple and appear earlier than the golden cleome. The plant does not grow as tall and is about done blooming by the time the yellow

flowered species is coming into full bloom. Seeds of all cleomes germinate poorly when planted in spring as they need freezing. Best results come from fall or winter planting. Annual. 15c per packet, 75c per ounce .Postpaid.

PRICKLY POPPY (*Argemone*)

The white prickly poppy is native to the southwest and is a common sight from Kansas to Texas. It is an annual of easy culture and with large white flowers for a long time in summer. The bees are much attracted to this plant for pollen. Seed 15c per packet.

MEADOW SAGE (*Salvia azurea*)

The meadow sage is a tall growing perennial native to the southern states. It is a highly desirable garden flower reaching a height of four or five feet. Blooms in September. Seed 15c per packet.

SAGE (*Salvia*)

The garden sage has been cultivated for centuries for its aromatic leaves which are used in flavoring foods. It is a long lived perennial and should be included in every garden. The flowers are attractive to the bees and a high quality honey is gathered from garden sage. Seed 15c per packet.

BALKAN SAGE (*Salvia silvestris*)

Balkan sage was found by an English beekeeper during the first world war and seed taken to his garden in England. With us it has proved to be an unusually attractive perennial garden flower and bee plant. The flowers are covered with bees in June with a second flowering in September. Perennial. 15 cts per packet.

SALVIA SUPERBA

Salvia Superba is another European sage similar to Balkan sage but quite distinct, blooming a few days earlier. It appears equally attractive to the bees and as a garden flower. Perennial. 15 cts per packet.

SALVIA PRATENSIS

Salvia pratensis comes to us from England. It is a perennial of easy culture. The flowers are larger than the Balkan sage and are visited by many bumblebees as well as honeybees. Flowers open in May and are mostly faded before middle of June although some bloom continues for weeks. Perennial. 15 cts per packet. Plants six for \$1.00. Postpaid.

WINGSTEM OR CROWNBEARD **(*Actinomeris alternifolia*)**

Wingstem is a rather coarse perennial about five feet tall with irregular yellow flowers. It never fails to find the bees working it freely when in bloom. One of the best of the native honey plants of the Mississippi Valley. Will grow in either sun or shade. Beekeepers of an earlier day called it "Golden Honey Plant." Where this plant is plentiful the beekeeper need never worry about abundant stores for winter. August bloomer. Fine for waste land. 15c per packet, 3 oz. \$1.00. Postpaid.

LAVENDER (*Lavendula vera*)

Lavender comes from Europe where it is commonly cultivated as the source of oil used in perfume. Lavender flowers have a strong and fragrant odor which is retained after drying and for this reason it is often put away with dainty fabrics. The flowering period is long and the plant is very desirable in the garden as well as for the bees which gather honey freely from this source. Perennial. Seed 15c per packet.

CATNIP (*Nepeta Cataria*)

Catnip is a famous bee plant common to our grandmother's herb gardens. It has since been widely naturalized in fence corners and unused gardens. Perennial, blooming over a long period and never failing to attract the bees. 15c per packet, 2 oz. \$1.00. Postpaid.

BURNET (*Sanguisorbia minor*)

This hardy perennial native to Eurasia is sometimes grown in the flower garden as an ornamental, in the vegetable garden as a salad plant and in the field as a forage crop. It is very drouth resistant and easily grown. It is very attractive to the bees, blooming in midsummer for several weeks, but apparently is sought mostly for pollen. Seed 15c per packet, one-fourth lb. 50c. Postpaid.

GLOBE THISTLE (*Echinops ritro*)

Globe thistle once enjoyed a real boom among the beekeepers under name of Chapman Honey Plant. The plant is perennial and reaches a height of two to three feet. The flowers are covered with bees and are much grown for ornament. Midsummer bloomer. Seed 15c per packet.

WILD INDIGO (*Baptisia australis*)

Wild indigo is a perennial native to the mid-west prairies which is worthy of much more common

cultivation. Dozens of stalks arise from a single root in a well established plant and often reach a height of three feet with large clusters of blue pea-like flowers. Very attractive to the bees. Seeds 15 cts packet

ZOFKA RED CLOVER

Zofka is a red clover much like the one in common cultivation, except that flower tubes are much shorter, thus enabling the honeybee to reach the nectar. This variety comes from Dr. Joseph Zofka of Czechoslovakia. But little seed is available. Packet 15 cts.

SAFFLOWER

Safflower is a thistle-like plant reaching a height of about three feet. The large yellow flowers are of interest in the garden but it is cultivated principally as a source of drying oil in demand by the paint and varnish industry. Bees visit the flowers freely but no information is available as to its probable value as a source of honey. Annual. Seed 15 cts per packet. 50 cts per pound postpaid. Five or more pounds by express collect 25 cts per pound.

TREE MALLOW

(*Lavatera cachemiriana*)

This perennial from Asia reaches a height of about six feet and blooms over a long period. The tops kill to the ground each winter but grow again with the coming of spring. The flowers, somewhat like small hollyhocks are pink in color and attract large numbers of bees and other insects. Very desirable ornamental. Seed 15 cts per packet.

PLUME POPPY (*Bocconia cordata*)

This tall growing perennial is a rich feeder and needs good soil and plenty of room. It comes from China and Japan. It reaches a height of six or more feet and has feathery pink flowers in mid-summer. The bees visit the flowers freely for pollen. Seed 15 cts per packet.

GOLDENROD (*Solidago*)

There is a large variety of goldenrods common from New England to California. A few are desirable garden flowers and in some localities the bees gather honey freely from them. We offer a mixture of several varieties for trial. Seed 15 cents per packet.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple loosestrife is very adaptable and will grow either on dry land or in boggy spots with its roots

in water. The abundant pink flowers are very ornamental and last for weeks in mid-summer. It is the source of much good honey in some localities. Seed 15 cts packet.

PRAIRIE CLOVER **(*Petalostemon purpurea*)**

A native perennial once common on mid-western prairies. It reaches a height of about two feet with slender stalks and long heads of purple flowers. Attracts bees for both pollen and nectar. A very desirable ornamental for the flower garden. Seed 15 cents per packet.

FIGWORT (*Scrophularia marilandica*)

Figwort is a never failing attraction to the bees, but its flowers are small and with little attraction as an ornamental. It grows to a height of about five feet and once established in either sun or shade provides rich bee pasture. A perennial which the beekeeper will do well to plant on waste lands. It had a great boom about fifty years ago under name, "Simpsons Honey Plant." The seed is very small. 15c per packet.

WILD SENNA (*Cassia marilandica*)

An attractive perennial native to the northeastern states. Grows to a height of four feet. Attractive in both foliage and flower. Blooms in July. Brings bumblebees and butterflies. 15c per packet, 3 oz. for \$1.00. Postpaid.

TRUMPET CREEPER **(*Tecoma radicans*)**

Trumpet creeper is a slow growing perennial vine known in some localities as cow-itch and cross-vine. The showy blossoms attract many moths and hummingbirds as well as bees. Plant where it won't crowd as it has a tendency to spread from the root. 15c per packet.

ASTER

The asters are the last source of nectar in many localities. We offer several of the most ornamental varieties including New England aster, smooth aster, and arrow leaf aster. All are worthy of a place in any garden. Perennial. 15c per packet.

LIATRIS

Liatris offered an abundant pasture for the settlers' bees where the prairies were opened for homestead. There are several varieties which are won-

derful garden flowers as well as bee plants, flowering in midsummer. The two most showy ones, the Kansas gayfeather and the blazing-star is what we offer. Perennial. 15c packet.

LESPEDEZA

Lespedeza bicolor is a shrubby variety from Japan which blooms very freely in late summer and is very attractive to the bees. Reaching a height of about six feet this one is well suited for screen or hedge. Perennial. 15c packet.

Lespedeza cyrtobotra is another shrubby species from Asia. It is perennial and requires about three years to reach full maturity. It begins blooming in the second season and is very attractive to the bees. This species apparently yields more nectar than any lespedeza that we have thus far been able to secure. It reaches a height of about six feet on our grounds. Seed 15c per packet.

Lespedeza daurica is a new species from Manchuria that is attractive to the bees although the flowering time is short, coming in late summer. It reaches a height of about two feet. Perennial. 15c per packet.

SAINFOIN or ESPARCET (Onobrychis sativa)

Sainfoin is the main source of hay in many European countries. It is drouth resistant and will grow on soils where the clovers do poorly. The flowers are so attractive as to make it worth growing in the flower garden as well as in the field. As a honey plant it has few equals as the bees visit the flowers freely from the time of the first opening until the last have faded. Blooms May and June. The honey is of fine quality, and that most often found in the stores of Paris, France, is from this source. Seed 15c per packet. \$1.00 per pound. Postpaid.

BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL (Lotus corniculatus)

Birdsfoot trefoil is a very drought resistant perennial which is a valuable addition to permanent pastures. In England it is regarded as a valuable bee plant. In this country the bees visit the plant freely but as yet it has not been tried sufficiently to test its value as a source of honey. A very promising new legume which should find a place on the general farm. Blooms very freely in mid-summer and the yellow flowers are very attractive. Three to five pounds of seed plant one acre. 15c packet, one-fourth pound 50c, \$1.50 per lb. Postpaid.

Spring, 1942

To The Trade We Offer Strawberry Plants:

Senator Dunlap ----- **\$3.00 per 1000**

Premier ----- **\$4.00 per 1000**

These Are Good, Strong Plants and Will Be Shipped Fresh Dug

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PELLETT GARDENS - - ATLANTIC, IOWA

WAGNER PEA **(*Lathyrus silvestris wagneri*)**

A forage plant developed by a German plant breeder after many years of effort. A deep rooting perennial which starts slowly and requires two or three years to become fully established. Drouth resistant and succeeds on poor soils. Reported as lasting for a lifetime when once established and as providing good forage for livestock and pasture for bees. 15 cts per packet, three-fourths pound \$1.00. Three or more pounds \$1.00 per pound. Postpaid.

Seed of any of the above, 15c per packet, or eight packets for one dollar.

Any twenty packets for two dollars. Postpaid.

BOOKS

AMERICAN HONEY PLANTS by Frank C. Pellett. This is a book of 420 large pages with 204 illustrations. It is printed on enameled paper and bound in imitation leather. The first book in the English language in its field it covers the plants important to the beekeeper as no other book has ever done. \$3. postpaid.

FLOWERS OF THE WILD by Frank C. Pellett. A book about wild flowers based on thirty years experience with several hundred species. More than 100 photographs and four color plates illustrate the text. Here will be found useful information for insuring success with native plants. Cloth binding 168 pages. \$1. per copy postpaid.

BIRDS OF THE WILD by Frank C. Pellett. This book is designed to provide information as to the requirements to be met in attracting wild birds. Nesting sites, feeding stations, watering places and plants to provide food are discussed freely. 128 pages, cloth binding, \$1. postpaid.

MELVIN PELLETT

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